

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the courteous telephone interview extended to Mr. Beuerle on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. During the interview, it was agreed that the addition of "and a substantially rectangular numeric keypad for entering phone numbers centered below the left and right sets of one or more rows of input keys" to the independent claims would further distinguish the claimed invention from the applied references, and should put the claimed invention in condition for allowance, pending an updated search.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 7, 8, 10, 15, 16 and 20 stand objected to. Claims 9-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). Claims 3 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Claims 1, 7-10, 15, 16 and 20 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Objections:

In regard to the claim objections, the relevant claims have been amended accordingly.

Specification:

In regard to this objection, the specification has been amended accordingly.

35 USC §112, Second Paragraph:

In regard to this rejection, the relevant claims have been amended accordingly.

35 USC §102(e) Meringer (Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-20)

Pursuant to the May 3, 2006 interview with the Examiner, it was agreed that the addition of "and a substantially rectangular numeric keypad for entering phone numbers centered below the left and right sets of one or more rows of input keys" to the independent claims would further distinguish the claimed invention from the applied

references, and should put the claimed invention in condition for allowance, pending an updated search.

Meringer does not disclose, teach, or suggest, among other things, a keyboard for a handheld electronic device including a left set of one or more rows of input keys and a right set of one or more rows of input keys separated by a centerline, the left set of one or more rows of input keys arranged in one or more respective arcs having one or more respective arc centers located to the left of the centerline, and the right set of one or more rows of input keys arranged in one or more respective arcs having one or more respective arc centers located to the right of the centerline; and a substantially rectangular numeric keypad for entering phone numbers centered below the left and right sets of one or more rows of input keys.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-20 be withdrawn.

35 USC §103(a) Meringer in view of Griffin (Claims 3 and 12)

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons set forth above with respect to Meringer. Griffin adds nothing in regard to the missing features of Meringer set forth above.

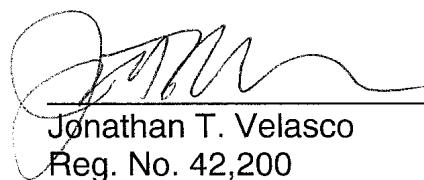
Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 3 and 12 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicant believes that by the instant Amendment to the Claims and Specification, all rejections and objections raised by the Examiner have been overcome, and all claims currently pending in the Application are now in a proper condition for allowance. Should the Examiner wish to discuss this amendment in further detail, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below. If necessary, applicant requests, under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application and to charge the fees for a large entity under 37 CFR 1.17(a). The Director is authorized to charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s) or credit any overpayment(s) to Deposit Account No. 50-3001 of Kyocera Wireless Corp.

Respectfully Submitted,

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